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HORSE RACING; YANKEE AFFAIR WINS APPLETON AT GULFSTREAM

By STEVEN CRIST, Special to the New York Times
Published: January 10, 1988

Yankee Affair benefited from an inside start in a field of 14 but proved clearly best while scoring a three-length victory over Performing Pappy and King's River today in the \$100,000 Appleton Handicap at Gulfstream Park.

Yankee Affair stalked Performing Pappy's moderate pace, bid for the lead under Randy Romero turning for home, and drew away. Performing Pappy, who went off at better than 100-1, held second place by a neck over King's River with Explosive Darling another neck back in fourth.

The winner, scoring for the seventh time in 10 career starts on the grass, is a 6-year-old gelding owned by the Ju Ju Jen Stable and trained by Henry Carroll. He covered the mile on the grass in 1:35 and returned \$6.80 for \$2 to win as the favorite. Yankee Affair emerged from obscurity last summer when switched to the grass and at one point ran off four straight victories, including the Laurel Turf Cup. Field Limited to 14

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The Appleton attracted 19 entrants, but track management decided not to split the race into two divisions, as had been done in five of the last seven years. With the starting field limited to 14, and the five lowest-weighted entrants this year were excluded: Duluth, On Goal, Sharp Romance, Banbury Cross and Private Fleet.

Duluth, a steady New York stakes horse, probably deserved a much higher assignment than his 112 pounds.

The prime Florida racing season is just beginning, but one of the most attractive filly sprint races of any winter is Sunday's featured race at Gulfstream, the usually unremarkable First Lady Handicap at six furlongs.

The field of 10 includes every top filly sprinter on the grounds. Funistrada, recently bought for \$850,000, is the topweight at 120 pounds. Racer Jen, a former claimer who has developed into a multiple stakes winner, is at 119 along with Ches Pie and Al's Helen.

The main appeal of the race, though, is the stakes debut of Cadillacing, an undefeated Claude (Shug) McGaughy trainee who has a blue-chip pedigree and a seemingly boundless future.

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Cadillacing has won all three of her career starts, two at Aqueduct and one at Hialeah last week, and has appeared to be under restraint every time. Her sire is Alydar and her dam is Relaxing, the champion mare who, like Cadillacing, was bred and owned by the Ogden Phipps family.

PIMLICO TO ADD HANDICAP Pimlico Race Course has announced that it will inaugurate a \$500,000 race for older horses in the spring that is likely to change the complexion of handicap racing in the East. Called the Pimlico Handicap, it will be run the Saturday between the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, May 14 this year. The race will be contested at the mile and three-sixteenth Preakness distance, and the winner will get a \$100,000 bonus if he was nominated to the Triple Crown as a 3-year-old.

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